

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
AUGUST 1995  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 DECEMBER 1996**

**1. SITE NAME:** McCook Air-To-Ground Gunnery Range

**SITE NUMBER:** B07NE005900

**LOCATION:**

City: Morrill  
County: Sioux County  
State: Nebraska

**PROJECT NUMBER:** B07NE005901

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 4

**2. POC's:**

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**HEADQUARTERS POC:**

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**SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** McCook Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, also known as Scottsbluff Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, is located about 6.5 miles north of Morrill, Sioux County, Nebraska and 15 miles northwest of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Consisting of approximately 7,942 acres, it was used as a machine-gun practice area from 1942 to

1945. There are currently six landowners and the land is currently being used for cattle ranching.

Terrain at the site varies from flat plains to dissected ridges. The Chalk Buttes are a major topographic feature of the area. Local relief can be 300 feet or more. The area is semi-arid with little vegetation. An interstate canal flows through the southern end of the site. Unpaved roads and trails are found throughout the site. The area is largely undeveloped except for some rural residences.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** Between 1942 and 1945, the United States Government acquired 7,941.81 acres of lease land from nine landowners for use as an air-to-ground gunnery range by Scottsbluff Army Airfield. In 1944, it was transferred to McCook AAF, located in Red Willow County, Nebraska, about 12 miles northwest of the City of McCook. McCook AAF continued to use the gunnery range until 1945. On 10 March 1945, the installation was declared surplus by the War Department. Ten leases were terminated on 27 April 1945, and one was terminated on 30 June 1945. A Corps of Engineers letter, dated 19 November 1945, states that a report, dated 31 October 1945 from the 9800 T.S.U. Engineer bomb and Shell Disposal Team, reported that Real Estate Division may consider the range reasonably free of unexploded missiles and, by letter, certified clearance of the area and recommended no further action be taken as the range was considered decontaminated.

The site was used by the Army Air Forces strictly for machine gun practice. Landowners reported that the site was never used as a bombing range. The land has been used for cattle grazing both before and after Army use.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **AREA A:**

Size, Acres:	7,942 acres
Former Use:	Machine-gun practice
Present Use:	Cattle grazing
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordinance Presence:	<b>Confirmed</b>
Type:	Small Arms Ammunition: .50 cal

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report for McCook Air-To-Ground Gunnery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1995.

**7. STRATEGY:** NOFA (See Issues and Concerns)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The RAC of 4 is being retained due to confirmed presence of complete rounds of small arms ammunition. This normally equates to a strategy of EE/CA. NOFA is recommended for the following reasons:

- (1) Historical documents, interviews and the physical evidence found by the site survey team indicates that the only ammunition associated with this site was .50 cal fired from aircraft.
- (2) The ASR site survey team members found one partial belt of three .50 cal cartridges and .50 cal cartridge cases. Landowners reported finding unused belts, cartridge cases and bullets of the same.
- (3) Most of the property owners do not want further OE removal action on their land.
- (4) The land is used primarily for ranching and farming. Presence of .50 cal ammunition does not pose a hazard to the public.
- (5) Historical documents certified clearance of the area and that the range was considered decontaminated.

**Landowners:** Two of three landowners the site survey team met on location did not allow them access to their land. The ASR states: "...most property owners are not desirous of any further OE remedial action on their land..."

**Climate:** Temperatures in the summer and winter can be extreme with a high of 109 degrees and a low of -42 degrees on record for July and December of 1989.

**Natural Resources:** There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. A listing is provided on page 3-4, para 3.5 on the ASR Findings. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** NOFA